
By: **Delegates Marriott, Brown, Burns, Cane, C. Davis, Dobson, Gladden,
Harrison, Hecht, Howard, V. Jones, Kirk, Menes, Montague, Oaks,
Paige, Patterson, Petzold, Phillips, Proctor, and Rawlings**

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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Assess the Needs of Newly Released Inmates**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Assess the Needs of Newly Released
4 Inmates; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for
5 staffing of the Task Force; providing for certain means of obtaining funding for
6 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to make ~~reports~~ a report to the General
7 Assembly on or before ~~certain dates~~ a certain date; providing for the termination
8 of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Assess
9 the Needs of Newly Released Inmates.

10 ~~BY adding to~~
11 ~~Article Correctional Services~~
12 ~~Section 9-612~~
13 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
14 ~~(1999 Volume and 2000 Supplement)~~

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

17 ~~Article Correctional Services~~

18 ~~9-612.~~

19 ~~(A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED~~
20 ~~INMATES.~~

1 ~~(B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:~~

2 ~~(1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE~~
3 ~~SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;~~

4 ~~(2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF~~
5 ~~THE SENATE;~~

6 ~~(3) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES~~
7 ~~OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;~~

8 ~~(4) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF~~
9 ~~PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:~~

10 ~~(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND~~
11 ~~PROBATION; AND~~

12 ~~(II) ONE WARDEN FROM THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION; AND~~

13 ~~(5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:~~

14 ~~(I) TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FORMER INMATES OF THE~~
15 ~~DIVISION OF CORRECTION;~~

16 ~~(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PRISONER'S AID~~
17 ~~ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND;~~

18 ~~(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INMATE'S ADVOCACY~~
19 ~~ORGANIZATION;~~

20 ~~(IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING~~
21 ~~PROGRAM;~~

22 ~~(V) A SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROVIDER SKILLED IN~~
23 ~~SERVING A CULTURALLY DIVERSE CLIENTELE;~~

24 ~~(VI) A FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER;~~

25 ~~(VII) A COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIAL;~~

26 ~~(VIII) ONE MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION;~~

27 ~~(IX) ONE MEMBER FROM THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION; AND~~

28 ~~(X) TWO WARDENS FROM LOCAL JAILS.~~

29 ~~(C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.~~

30 ~~(D) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES~~
31 ~~SHALL COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE STAFFING FOR THE~~
32 ~~TASK FORCE.~~

1 ~~(E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EACH MONTH.~~

2 ~~(F) (1) THE TASK FORCE MAY APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND USE GRANTS OR~~
3 ~~FINANCIAL OR OTHER AID FROM ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCE TO ACCOMPLISH~~
4 ~~THE DUTIES PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SECTION.~~

5 ~~(2) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION,~~
6 ~~BUT SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL~~
7 ~~REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

8 ~~(G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ASSESS THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED~~
9 ~~INMATES FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY:~~

10 ~~(1) EXAMINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF NEWLY RELEASED~~
11 ~~INMATES AND THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS THAT EXIST TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM;~~

12 ~~(2) REVIEWING THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY~~
13 ~~THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF INMATES IN TRANSITION FROM CORRECTIONAL~~
14 ~~INSTITUTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 41, § 18-318 OF THE CODE;~~

15 ~~(3) HEARING TESTIMONY FROM LOCAL AND NATIONAL EXPERTS ON~~
16 ~~PROBLEMS FACED BY NEWLY RELEASED INMATES INCLUDING:~~

17 ~~(I) WORKERS FROM CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES;~~

18 ~~(II) STAFF OF TRANSITIONAL SERVICES PROGRAMS;~~

19 ~~(III) MEMBERS OF PRISON MINISTRIES; AND~~

20 ~~(IV) FORMER INMATES;~~

21 ~~(4) HEARING REQUIRED REPORTS FROM ALL STATE AGENCIES THAT~~
22 ~~ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS ON NEWLY RELEASED~~
23 ~~INMATES, AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THEIR SERVICES TO~~
24 ~~NEWLY RELEASED INMATES;~~

25 ~~(5) MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS~~
26 ~~OF NEWLY RELEASED INMATES;~~

27 ~~(6) PRIORITIZING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE; AND~~

28 ~~(7) COMPOSING A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ADDRESSING THE~~
29 ~~FINDINGS OF THE TASK FORCE CONCERNING THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED~~
30 ~~INMATES.~~

31 ~~(H) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS~~
32 ~~FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO §~~
33 ~~2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2002.~~

1 ~~(2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS~~
2 ~~AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE~~
3 ~~STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2003.~~

4 (a) There is a Task Force to Assess the Needs of Newly Released Inmates.

5 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

6 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
7 the House;

8 (2) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
9 Senate;

10 (3) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services or the
11 Secretary's designee;

12 (4) The following members appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety
13 and Correctional Services:

14 (i) One representative from the Division of Parole and Probation;
15 and

16 (ii) One warden from the Division of Correction; and

17 (5) The following members appointed by the Governor:

18 (i) Two individuals who are former inmates of the Division of
19 Correction;

20 (ii) One representative from the Prisoners Aid Association of
21 Maryland;

22 (iii) One representative of an inmates' advocacy organization;

23 (iv) One representative from a transitional housing program;

24 (v) A substance abuse treatment provider skilled in serving a
25 culturally diverse clientele;

26 (vi) A forensic mental health provider;

27 (vii) A county health official;

28 (viii) One member of a religious organization;

29 (ix) One member from the Open Society Foundation;

30 (x) Two wardens from local jails;

31 (xi) One representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and

- 1 (xii) One representative from organized labor.
- 2 (c) The Governor shall appoint the Chairperson of the Task Force.
- 3 (d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall
4 coordinate with other State agencies to provide staffing for the Task Force.
- 5 (e) The Task Force shall meet at least once each month.
- 6 (f) (1) The Task Force may apply for, accept, and use grants or financial or
7 other aid from any public or private source to accomplish the duties provided for in
8 this section.
- 9 (2) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation, but shall
10 be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided
11 for in the State budget.
- 12 (g) The Task Force shall assess the needs of newly released inmates from
13 correctional institutions by:
- 14 (1) Examining the scope of the problem of newly released inmates and
15 the number of programs that exist to address the problem;
- 16 (2) Reviewing the report prepared by the Task Force to study the health
17 care needs of inmates in transition from correctional institutions under Article 41, §
18 18-318 of the Code;
- 19 (3) Hearing testimony from local and national experts on problems faced
20 by newly released inmates, including:
- 21 (i) Workers from correctional facilities;
- 22 (ii) Staff of transitional services programs;
- 23 (iii) Members of prison ministries; and
- 24 (iv) Former inmates;
- 25 (4) Hearing required reports from all State agencies that assess the
26 impact of their respective programs on newly released inmates, and making
27 recommendations for improving their services to newly released inmates;
- 28 (5) Making recommendations on how to address the problems of newly
29 released inmates;
- 30 (6) Prioritizing the recommendations of the Task Force; and
- 31 (7) Composing a comprehensive report addressing the findings of the
32 Task Force concerning the needs of newly released inmates.

1 (h) The Task Force shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to
2 the General Assembly, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or
3 before June 30, 2002.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 ~~October~~ July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~2 years and 3 months~~ 1
6 year, and at the end of ~~December 31, 2003~~ June 30, 2002, with no further action
7 required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force
8 and effect.